

# Beef Cattle Handbook

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## Learning Objectives

- \* Characteristics of the three common breeds of beef cattle.
- \* How to select feed and manage beef steers and heifers.
- \* How to groom fit and show beef steers and heifers.

## Things to Do

- \* Own feed and manage one or more beef animals.
- \* Fit and show a steer or heifer during the year.
- \* Study livestock judging.
- \* Give one or more talks or demonstrations about beef cattle.
- \* Keep accurate records on your project.
- \* Attend regularly and participate in your club meetings.
- \* Learn all you can about beef cattle by studying this handbook and other literature concerning beef cattle.

## How To Use This Handbook

The Animal Science Department of The University Tennessee, has prepared this 4-H Beef Cattle Handbook to serve as a guide and reference for 4-H beef project work. It will be a valuable aid for the newly enrolled club member in the beef cattle project as well as a useful reference for the more experienced member. Parents may find this handbook helpful in advising, planning and working with 4-H'ers. Please seek additional information by consulting your local leader, county agent, neighboring cattlemen and others. Your county Extension office has many and bulletins pertaining to various phases of beef cattle production.

# Beef Cattle Handbook

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## Let's Learn About Beef Cattle

4-H beef project will open the door to many learning and fun-filled experiences. Since beef cattle can be grown on most farms, mother and dad will quickly realize advantages of an animal project, and how your project can work in very well with your everyday life. Your project begins when you choose or select a steer or heifer.

The 4-H steer project is designed for the boy or girl who desires to feed, fit and show a beef animal. Most steers will be full-fed for five months or longer, depending on the starting age. The steer should reach the desired market weight (950-1100 lbs.) and grade (choice) between 14 to 18 months of age. At this time, you will show and market him as a finished beef steer. Each spring and summer 4-H steer shows are held. Your steer, when purchased, should be the right age to be shown and marketed at one of these events.

The 4-H beef heifer project emphasizes growing, developing, and showing a heifer, and then building a herd of cows. This is a long-term investment. It may be several years before you earn any money. However, the heifer project will grow in number of animals and will become a very valuable investment. Many boys and girls attend college from the income received from a heifer project started when they were junior club members.

Obviously, you should consider farm conditions for future expansion before considering a beef heifer project.

### 4-H STEER FEEDING SYSTEMS

#### Spring Shows

System	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	
<b>A</b>	<b>Start</b> 600 Lb. Calf	Full Feed					→						
	ADG 2.0 - 2.25 Lbs.				→								<b>Show</b> 900 - 1000 Lb.
<b>B</b>	←						←						<b>START</b> 400 - 450 Lbs.
	Full Feed						→						<b>Show</b> 950 - 1100 Lbs.
<b>Summer Shows</b>													
<b>A</b>	<b>Start</b>	Graze & Hay					→					<b>Show</b>	
	550-600 Lbs		ADG .75 to 1.0 Lbs.		700 to Full Feed		750 Lb. ADG 2.0-2.25 Lbs.			950 - 1100 Lb.			
<b>B</b>	<b>Start</b>	500-550 Lbs. Graze & Hay & Grain (1% Level)					→					<b>Show</b>	
	ADG 1.25 to 1.5 Lbs.		700 to 800 Lbs. Full Feed		ADG 1.75-2.25 Lbs.			925 - 1100 Lbs.					

#### Age of Heifers for Most Events\*

Heifers born January 1-April 30 year of show  
 " " September 1-December 31 year preceding show  
 " " January 1-May 31

\* District and State Junior Beef Heifer Shows are the last week in July.

## Let's Learn About Breeds

You will want to select a project animal that is practical and popular in your area.

You may want to pick the breed on your farm. The most common breeds of beef cattle in Tennessee steer shows are Hereford, Angus, Shorthorn and Crossbreds.

### Hereford

The Hereford breed of cattle originated in Herefordshire, England, an area famed for its grass and cattle. The cattle were valued primarily in the early days as draft animals.

When these oxen became too old to work, or the cows had finished their dual functions of working and producing milk, they were slaughtered for meat. Herefords were first brought to America in 1817. The color pattern of the Hereford consists of a red body, white face, white underline, and certain other characteristic white markings. There are both polled and horned strains.

### Crossbreds

Lately there has been a growing interest in showing Crossbred beef steers. Size and color markings will be determined by which parent animals are used in the cross.

### Angus

Angus cattle originated in the high mountainous country of northeastern Scotland. They were first brought to the United States in 1873. Angus are black in color and polled.

The bulls pass on their black color remarkably well when crossed with other breeds. Other than black, about the only distinct color patterns that show up in crossbreeding are the black body and white face -- the Angus and Hereford cross. Angus crossed with white Shorthorn produces a blue-gray color.

### Shorthorn

The Shorthorn originated on the northeastern coast of England in the counties of Durham, York, Lincoln, and Northumberland. One record shows that the first Shorthorn cattle left England in 1783 and were sent to Virginia. The color patterns are red, white, or a combination of red and white, or what is called roan color. There are both polled and horned strains.

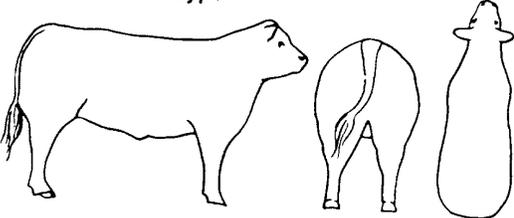
## Selecting Your Project Animal

You and your parents, and perhaps your 4-H leader, must decide on the individual calf you will take for a project, and whether or not it will be a steer or heifer. After deciding on the breed, determine the age or class your animal will show in. You also must decide how much of your savings, bank loan or family budget will be used.

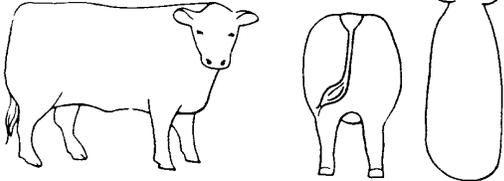
The general body structure, muscular make-up and quality of the animal are to be considered when deciding on the individual. You should be involved in all of this decision-making process.

# BODY TYPES

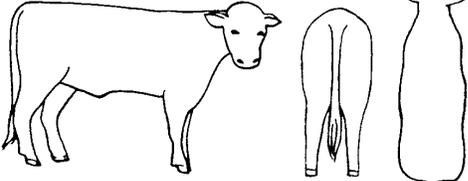
Modern Beef Type



Old Fashioned Beef Type

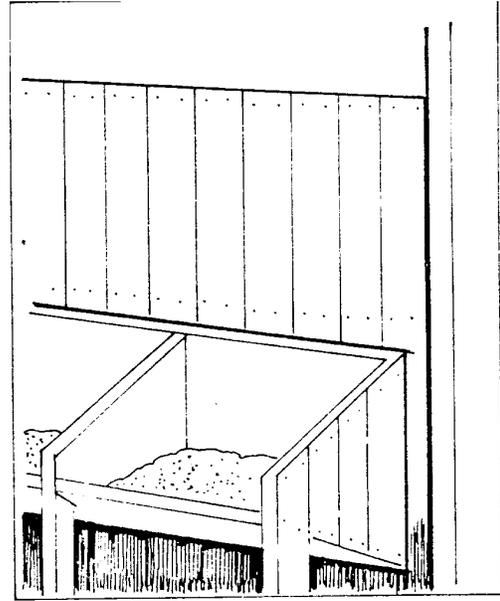
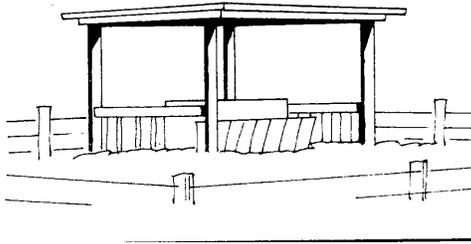


Meatless Type



## Shelter and Equipment

Climate in Tennessee is not severe. We do not need costly housing. Overhead protection from the sun, rain and other elements should be provided such as an open shed. The feed bunk should be under the shelter. Provide about 50 to 100 square feet of pen space for your calf. This small area will let you work closer to your calf and will help you in gentling the animal. The calf will also need a constant supply of fresh water.



## Feeding Your Beef Heifer

Keep in mind that you are feeding your heifer for the purpose of growing and developing her into a productive brood cow. You must give her enough feed (nutrients) to keep her growing and developing rapidly. But do not be too eager. Do not overfeed her. This can be harmful to her future production as a brood cow. An overfat heifer is usually a slow breeder, a poor milker, and is more likely to have calving trouble.

If you intend to show your heifer, enough extra feed will be needed to give her some extra finish or "bloom" so that she can look her best. But again avoid getting her too fat. Work closely with your 4-H leader for recommended feed changes. Weigh your heifer weekly or monthly to check her progress.

A good average daily gain for a young heifer after weaning is 1.0 to 1.30 pounds per day. When the heifer is within two months from show, a daily gain of 1.3 to 1.5 pounds per day will assure a good "bloomy" heifer. If your heifer gains over 2.00 pounds per day, she will usually be getting too fat. (Weigh your calf often so you can determine the average daily gain.)

### Figure Daily Gain

$$\frac{\text{Weight now minus last weight}}{\text{Days In period}} = \text{A.D.G.}$$

A.D.G. (Av. Daily Gain)

$$\text{Example: } \frac{676 - 622}{30 \text{ days}} = \frac{54}{30} = 1.8 \text{ lbs./day}$$

(If you have difficulty in figuring daily gain, ask help from your leader, parent or extension agent)

Feed your heifer what you grow on your farm. If you need extra nutrients to balance your ration, you will need to buy feed. Provide pasture when possible. When more gain is needed, add an extra amount of concentrates. Extra protein will be necessary in winter or when pasture is short or limited. A good guide on how much to feed is one pound of concentrates per 100 pounds of body weight, plus one pound of protein supplement for each animal. Pasture or hay should be available at all times. If ground ear corn is fed, 1.2 pounds per 100 pounds body weight should be fed because 20 % of the ear corn is roughage.

Example: Heifer weight is 700 pounds-  $7 \times 1 = 7$  pounds cracked corn plus 1 pound of protein supplement and all the pasture she wants.

Visit with your 4-H leader frequently, about your feeding program.

## Heifer Feeding Management

Feeding management is the art of using animal nutrition (a science) to make your animal function for a specific purpose. You will become a better feeder as you gain more experience. Here are some guidelines to help you do a better job:

1. Feed only what is required--a balanced ration.
2. Prevent waste--feed bunks 2 1/2 feet wide, 2 feet of bunk space for each animal, 12 inches from bottom of feed bunk to ground, 8-inch sides on feed bunk.
3. Feed at the same time each day. Do not skip a feeding.
4. Keep feed fresh. Don't let stale feed accumulate in bunk.
5. Talk softly, work quietly, avoid sudden movements and, above all, be patient.
6. Provide free access to salt and mineral mix. Provide clean, fresh water at all times.
7. When mixing more than one kind of feed, mix thoroughly. Don't get feed too fine or dusty. A coarse grind is best.
8. Molasses will help settle dusty feed and makes feed more palatable. It is not necessary to add molasses to your ration unless your calf needs to eat more.
9. Feed only the amount of hay your calf will clean up in one day.
10. Make feed changes slowly and increase

slowly the amount of feed your calf receives.

Young animals will make gains at less cost. As they grow older, gains will cost more. Keeping good records will help you plan future feeding programs.

## Feeding Your Beef Steer

The same scientific nutrition principles apply to feeding your steer as apply to growing and developing a heifer. In addition, you will need to feed a greater amount of nutrients in the form of energy to fatten your steer to the desired market finish.

This will involve feeding a greater amount of corn or concentrates. These extra energy nutrients must be supplied in a small enough volume of feed so the steer will eat them. You may utilize pasture and roughage to grow and develop your steer, but shortly before the yearling stage, and on until market time, he needs enough extra nutrients to begin to 'finish'.

You should use those feeds that are grown on your farm. Buy feeds that give you the most nutrients for the lowest price. (Ask your parents or project leader about this.) Keep your ration simple. A choice steer purchased at the right age does not require a complicated feeding program.

Check your feed cost for each pound of gain often. This means that you should keep a simple record on the amount of feed you give your steer -- and the cost of this feed. Weighing your steer each week or each month will allow you to figure the cost of each pound of gain. Your average feed cost for each pound of gain for the total feeding period will probably be 18 to 25 cents. Figure cost per pound of gain:

$$\frac{\text{Amount} \times \text{cost of feed}}{\text{Total pounds gain}} = \text{Cost/lb. of gain}$$

Example:

$$\frac{360 \text{ lbs. feed} \times 3\text{¢/lb.}}{60 \text{ pounds gain}} = \frac{\$10.80}{60} = .18/\text{lb.}$$

Nurse cows are not recommended for practical feeding programs. You cannot feed two animals as cheaply as one. Also, high-priced supplemental feeds may run your feed costs too high to make a profit. On the other hand, if you use poor quality, cheap feeds--and keep your cost of gains too low--your steer will fail to reach an acceptable quality grade. Your goal should be to finish your steer to a choice grade and make some money. Your 4-H leader can help you figure your cost of gains, and show you how to cheapen feed costs if necessary.

#### Amount of Feed To Use

Steers should be on "full feed" of concentrates and low roughage the last 100 to 150 days. Their daily gains should average 2.0 to 2.5 pounds per day for this period. Before this, gains from 1.5 to 2.0 pounds per day is sufficient. These lower gains may be achieved on one-half full feed, as described under the heifer feeding guide.

A steer is considered on full feed when he consumes about 2.0 to 2.5 pounds of concentrates per 100 pounds body weight. A very good performing steer may consume more than this. Two to four pounds of hay per day should be fed in addition. Turning your steer on a limited pasture area a short time each day may take the place of hay.

#### Rations

A number of different combinations of feed ingredients may be used for the steer's ration. However, a simple ration may be best and economy should be considered.

##### Ration No. 1

First 60 days on feed

- 1 part cracked or rolled shelled corn
- 1 part crushed ear corn or rolled oats

##### Ration No. 2

Next 60 days on feed

- 2 parts cracked shelled corn
- 1 part crushed ear corn or rolled oats

##### Ration No. 3

After 120 days on feed

- 3 parts cracked shelled corn
- 1 part crushed ear corn or rolled oats

In addition, one part barley may be added to any one of the above mixtures.

#### Add Protein Supplement

The following may be used as a guide for adding a 36 to 40% protein supplement to the grain rations: (If a higher percent supplement is used, make adjustments according to protein content.)

1. If steer weighs 400 to 600 pounds, use 1 pound 36 to 40% supplement for each 6 pounds of grain mixture.
2. If steer weighs 600 to 800 pounds, use 1 pound 36 to 40% supplement for each 8 pounds of grain mixture.
3. If steer weighs 800 to 1000 pounds, use 1 pound 36 to 40% supplement for each 10 pounds of grain mixture.

Start your steer on full feed with a daily ration of one pound per 100 pounds of body weight. Increase ration by 1/4- to 1/2-pound per day until he is on full feed (2 to 2.5 pounds per 100 pounds body weight). Increase feed as your steer grows.

In the beginning, give the steer all the pasture or hay he wants. Gradually decrease hay and pasture as a "full feed" is approached. Do not allow your steer on pasture the last 8 to 10 weeks, before the show. Your 4-H leader will help outline a feeding program for your steer, using the feed that you have available on your farm.

Your feeding program will vary, depending on:

1. Age and size of steer
2. Feeds available
3. Degree of finish on steer
4. Final weight and finish expected

## **Steer Feeding Management**

The same feeding management guides will apply to steers as to heifers. In addition, the following suggestions are given for steers:

1. If hand-feeding, allow the steer the amount of feed he will clean up in 45 to 60 minutes, twice each day. You may want to feed three times daily during the last 60 to 90 days on feed. Once on full feed, the steer may be self-fed, providing there is fresh feed before him at all times. Take out any stale feed.

2. Clean out trough before each feeding. Give stale or leftover feed to other cattle.

3. When hand-feeding, if your steer leaves feed or has a poor appetite, cut back on feed for one or two feedings until he regains his

appetite for the feed.

4. During the early part of the feeding period (until the animal gets on full feed), hay may be given free choice. When the animal is on full feed, hay should be limited to 2 to 4 pounds daily.

5. Feed should be increased gradually. After your animal is on full feed, do not increase his feed any more than 1/4-pound per day. A change from one ration to another should also be over a period of 5 to 7 days.

6. Watch your steer's droppings for signs of trouble--scouring indicates he is getting too much grain and not enough hay, or that he is getting moldy grain or other feeds that cause digestive disturbances. When loose droppings occur, increase hay and decrease grain according to severity of the case.

7. Feeding more than one animal, or having other animals nearby, helps to gentle the steer and increase his appetite.

Feed Preparation -- A medium to coarsegrind is best for feeds to be ground. Avoid a dusty feed. Shelled corn may be cracked or rolled, and oats and barley should be ground or rolled. Feeds should be thoroughly mixed. If molasses is added each day, use about 1/4 pound mixed with 1 pint of water. Mix thoroughly in the feed for steers weighing up to about 600 pounds. Give larger animals 1/2 pound molasses mixed the same way. Changes to molasses feeding should be made gradually.

## Keep Your Beef Calf Healthy

It is easier to prevent disease than to cure it. Your calf's health can be affected by contagious diseases, internal and external parasites, and physical conditions.

### Disease Protection

Vaccination offers the best protection against most harmful contagious diseases. Have your calf vaccinated for Blackleg and Malignant Edema. Check with your local veterinarian for other contagious diseases in your area that you may wish to vaccinate your calf for.

When your calf's ears droop and his head hangs low, and doesn't eat, the animal is ill. Call your veterinarian!!

### Parasite Control

Parasites are living organisms that live off your animal. They may be inside the digestive system of your calf or may thrive on the outside by biting or sucking the blood.

Control all flies. Lice are a problem in fall and winter. Stomach worms of various kinds can be a serious problem. They will cause your calf to make slower and more expensive gains, as well as affect the general appearance.

## Other Management Tips

Castration and dehorning are a "must" for steers. Your 4-H leader should help you do these jobs correctly. After learning how, you may wish to do the job yourself with proper adult assistance and guidance.

Hooves that grow long can affect the structure and walk of your calf. An experienced person should help you keep your calf's feet trimmed. Foot trimming, if necessary, should be done at least 2 months or more before the show.

If you overfeed your calf, you may cause it to "founder". Regular feeding and measured amounts of feed can prevent this. If your calf "founders," he will become sick, go off feed and may scour badly. Toxins are produced in his digestive system, which in turn affects his feet, making the calf stiff and sore footed. Excessive hoof growth is noted later. Immediate treatment by a veterinarian is recommended when you suspect foundering.

Bloat is due to an accumulation of gas in the rumen (paunch), and the animal is unable to expel the gas by belching. Green legume pasture such as alfalfa and clover are likely to cause bloat. Sometimes a heavy grain ration can cause bloat. Walking the animal will usually help release the gas. It may be necessary to pass a stomach tube into the rumen. It is best to call your veterinarian to relieve bloat.

## Training, Grooming and Showing

Grooming your calf can be fun, but it takes time and patience. Progress can be seen daily and a good job done is rewarding. You should be patient and persistent.

When you first get your calf, begin brushing it with a stiff "rice root" hair brush as soon as you can. This helps gentle the calf and helps his appearance. Brushing briskly all over his body will help rid the hair coat of dirt and dandruff. A stiff brush and "elbow grease" will give a better bloom to your calf than any other thing you can do. The last four to five weeks before the show, thoroughly brush your calf daily. The final time over each day, brush the hair up and out.

Wash your calf monthly. The last month before the show, wash him each week. This will clean the hide and hair and stimulate hair growth. Use a good mild soap or detergent. You might wish to follow these steps in washing:

1. Wet hair thoroughly.
2. Add soap.
3. Lather well all over body and legs.
4. Scrub with stiff brush or rubber curry comb.
5. Hold ears and head down to wash head.
6. Rinse well.
7. Repeat wash and rinse.
8. Three tablespoons of vinegar in one gallon of water as a final rinse will cut

soap film.

9. Use back of scotch comb to scrape off excess water.

Also fluff out the switch of the tail with a brush. Hold the switch in one hand and brush a few strands forward with each stroke of the brush. An oily rag can be used to wipe off the horns and hoofs.

### Blocking

Body trimming or blocking is practiced by most showmen and is designed to make the calf look as good as possible. In order to compete successfully, your calf may need to be blocked. Ask for help if this is done, as some training is required to avoid an uneven appearance. In addition, the underline is normally clipped to enhance the appearance of trimness. Use clippers or scissors to properly block the animal from the last month up to time of show.

### Clipping

Clip the hair about two weeks before the show. This will give the hair an opportunity to regain its natural appearance by show time.

### Head

1. Angus--Clip all show cattle. Clip the face back to the point of the jaw. Do not clip the ears, eyelashes or hair on the nose. A good plan is to clip over the poll as far back as the halter, which will be about 2 inches back of the poll and ears.
2. Hereford--Clip all steers according to instructions for Angus above. Do not clip Hereford heifers, horned or polled. Some breeders like to clip only the poll of polled cattle to emphasize

the natural polled animal. Brush the hair on the head down on females to give a more feminine look.

3. Shorthorn--Clip all steers according to instructions for Angus. Do not clip Shorthorn heifers, horned or polled.

## Tail

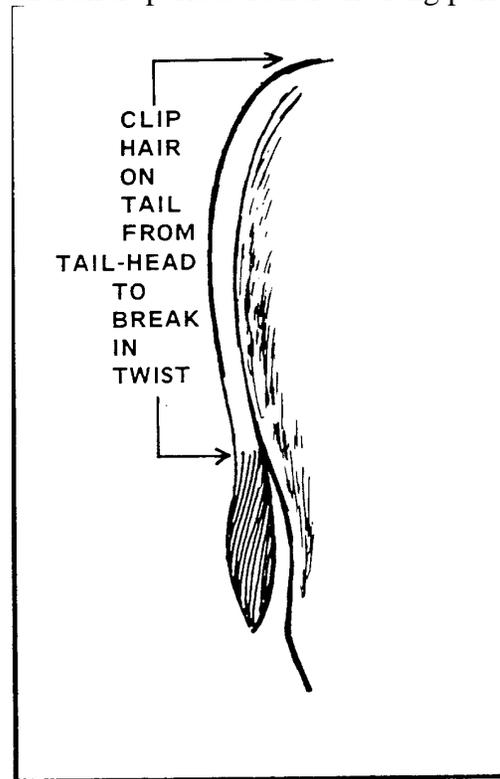
1. Angus and Hereford--Clip from the break in the twist to the tail-head. Clip in such a manner that the tail will blend in smoothly with the rest of the body. Avoid a noticeable break. If the tailhead is low, do not clip; if the tailhead is high, clip to bring it level with the top line.
2. Shorthorn--The tail is not clipped on Shorthorns as it is on other breeds. With Shorthorn heifers, the present trend is to clip only the ridge of hair over the tailhead and down the middle of the tail--if it will not stay in place by brushing. However, Shorthorn steers are clipped from the break in the twist to the tailhead as are Angus and Herefords.

Other grooming ideas may be obtained by writing to the Purebred Breed Associations. Addresses are listed in the reference section in the back of this publication.

## Training

A good calf, even though properly fitted, can a real disappointment in the show ring if it unruly. You'll be embarrassed too if you cannot control your calf to show its best features. Start training early. Most successful boys and girls begin training their calf as soon as they get it home after purchasing. A firm but patient hand will soon accomplish this challenging task. It is better to train for

several short periods rather one long period.



## Haltering

Your first step in training will be haltering. Use a rope halter. With adult help, halter and tie your calf in his quarters. Make sure the halter doesn't bind over the nose and cut off circulation. Tie your calf several hours each day. Brushing will help gentle your calf, and this will teach him that no harm will come. You can soon do this job by yourself.

## Leading

Leading will acquire some assistance the few times. It's natural for your calf to balk. Someone behind the calf can persuade him along. It may help to lead your calf to water

soon he'll know to follow the halter tug. Don't ever let him break away from you. This becomes a habit hard to break. Don't ever be conquered--be the conqueror! Hold the halter lead strap in your right hand, about 18 inches from his head. Walk at a brisk pace. Practice stopping and starting often.

When your calf is leading well practice having him stand or "set-up" properly. A show stick will help place the back feet. Place his feet squarely under him, with a very slight bend in his rear legs. The poll (top of the head) should be slightly higher than the back. The back should be straight. A swaybacked calf can be pushed up by lightly tapping his stomach with the show stick.

When standing, your lead strap should be in your left hand, and your hand 18 inches from his head. You should face your calf. Your show stick is transferred from your left hand to your right hand. Pose your calf often, then lead him in a clock wise circle. Stop, pose, then walk over and over. Final training should be done with a show halter that has a chain lead. Use the same halter on show day.

#### Show Ring Procedures

Watch the judge! Obey his instructions! A good way to learn is to observe some shows or classes before you show. Pick out a good showman and watch him closely for pointers. Study the judge. Anticipate what he'll ask you to do. Be ready--move out when he points to you.

#### Showing A Beef Animal

As you enter the ring, always lead your calf clockwise around the circle. This is especially important to remember if you are the first one in the ring. The ringman may first ask you to lineup side by side. Observe his instructions.

When walking, lead the animal from its left side, hold the lead strap or rope in your right hand and carry the show stick in your left hand. Do not carry the lead strap in both hands.

When showing the animal in a standing position, change the lead strap to your left hand and the show stick to your right hand and face the animal.

Hold the lead strap 12 to 18 inches from where it leaves the halter. It should be held about even with or slightly above your calf's head. The extra length of lead strap should be neatly folded and carried in the right hand when on the walk, and in the left hand when the animal is standing. Do not continually rattle the halter chain.

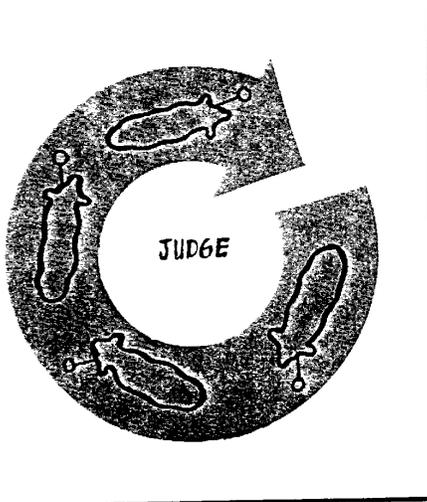
As soon as the animal is stopped, set the animal up so it is standing with a leg under each corner of its body. This can be done most easily with the aid of a show stick. A show stick should be about 4 1/2 feet long, and have a small blunt nail sticking out about 1/2-inch from the lower end.

In addition to having the legs properly placed, the calf should stand with his back level and his head up and alert. Place the calf's front feet on slightly higher ground when the ground is not level.

The judge's purpose in lining up animals head to tail, or side by side, is to get a full picture of your animal. He also wants to compare it with others in the ring. If your animal is out of line, and is covering up another animal, the judge cannot make a fair comparison. This is what we call show ring courtesy -- courtesy to other showmen, to the judge and to your animal.

## Key Points To Remember While Showing

1. Be natural. Overshowing, undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.
2. The exhibitor should always know where the judge is; in other words, "keep one eye on the judge."
3. Always show the animal from the left side or the front, but never from the right side.
4. After the animals have been lined up and the judge calls for some changes in the line-up.



Courtesy and sportsmanship are as important in the show ring as they are in basketball or any other game. From the above diagram, you will notice you never lead past the front of the other animals, but instead when you are asked to move your animal up or down the line, you lead the animal ahead, turn it clock-wise, go back through the line where it was standing and then go up or down the line to wherever you have been designated. If your animal will respond, you may back out of the line and then move to your new position.

5. Avoid bumping, crowding or striking another exhibitor's animal. You can help if an animal balks in front of you by giving a friendly tap to encourage him along. When the animals are lined up, they should be standing straight in the line and not too far ahead or too far back. Avoid crowding into a line-up if there are other openings available. The ringmen will prepare an opening if the judge asks you to change positions.

## Make Show Day An Enjoyable Experience

Be prepared before you load up for the show. Allow enough spare time so you will be sure to get your calf to the show on time. Check to see that you are not leaving anything you'll need. Make a list of items to take.

Wash your calf the day before you leave home. A good washing at home can make the final washing at the show much easier.

Plan to arrive at the show early, a day before if you can. Your calf can settle down and get accustomed to the strange surroundings. You have a job to do in getting ready for the show. Have fun with other exhibitors but don't forget your purpose for being there.

Get the show schedule from your 4-H leader. Plan to have your calf ready at the right time. Wash your calf, let it dry and bed down in fluffed-up clean straw. Feed what you did at home, but your calf probably will not eat as much. Good hay usually will be welcomed by the nervous calf.

Don't "overfill" your calf with feed or water before showing. Calves should look normal. Brush early and during the day to keep dust out of the hair. However, if your calf is resting, don't bother to get it up. Wet the hair and brush it enough beforehand so it will dry. Use your clippers in areas where needed. A very small amount of coat dressing may be applied before showing, but don't overdo it! Be sure your calves' legs and bones are clean. Give his switch a final fluffing.

How about yourself? You'll need a change of clothes to show in. Nothing fancy -- just clean, neat clothes. Your county may want all boys and girls in some similar type of clothing.

When your class is called, lead your calf into the ring. Plan to do your best. All your have been working for will be over in just a few minutes. Make the best of it. Watch the judge -- do what he says. Don't look for mom and dad or anyone else. They see you!

There can be only one winner. You can try to be that winner. If you don't, however, you gain experience. You learn to do a better job and how to be a good sport. Plan now to be back next year with a better calf and do a better job.

**WIN OR LOSE**



**BE A GOOD SPORT!**

## **Common Beef Cattle Terms**

Heifer - Young female that has never had a calf.

Steer - Male castrated at an early age before sex characteristics developed.

Bull - Uncastrated male of any age.

Stag - Male that was castrated after sex characteristics were developed.

Cow - Female that has had one or more calves.

Dam - The cow that is the mother of a particular calf.

Yearling - Heifer steer or bull between one and two years old.

Sire - The bull that is the father of a particular calf.

Polled - Cattle that are born without horns.

Wean - To separate a calf from its mother.

Registered - An animal whose name has been recorded in the records books of its breed association. The sire and dam must also be recorded. The association gives the animal a number (registration number) and a certificate of registration. Only purebred animals may be registered.

Pedigree - A tracing of the ancestry of an animal.

Calves - Young cattle less than one year old.

Breeder - The owner of the parents of a calf at the time of mating.

Castrate - To remove the testes from male cattle.

Breed - A group of cattle that have the same external characteristics and that pass these traits on to each generation.

Crossbred - The offspring resulting by mating different breeds or cattle.

Self-feed - The practice of allowing an animal to run to a finishing feed all the time.

## References

"The Future Cattlemen" - American Hereford Association Hereford Drive Kansas City, Missouri 64105

"Star of Your Future" - American Angus Association 3201 Frederick Boulevard St. Joseph, Missouri 64506

"Guide for Future Cattlemen" - American Shorthorn Association 8288 Hascall Street Omaha Nebraska 68124

"Get in The Winner's Circle" - American Polled Hereford Association 4700 East 63rd Street Kansas City, Missouri 64130

"4-H Livestock Judging"--Publication 611, Agricultural Extension Service

"Tennessee Beef Cattle Calendar"--Publication 544, Agricultural Extension Service

"How Good Is Your Feed?"--Publication 553, Agricultural Extension Service 29

## Subjects for 4-H Club Talks

- \* What my beef project means to me
- \* Why I like a particular breed of beef cattle.
- \* Hauling cattle to market.
- \* Eat beef every day.
- \* My first (steer, heifer) show.

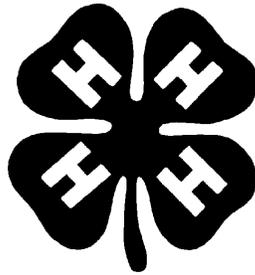
## Subjects for Demonstrations

- \* How to get a forage test sample.
- \* Where your steaks come from.
- \* How to make a rope halter.
- \* How to make a backrubber.
- \* How to clip or block a calf for showing.

## THE 4-H PLEDGE

I pledge:

my Head to clearer thinking,  
my Heart to greater loyalty,  
my Hands to larger service,  
my Health to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
my country, and my world.



## THE 4-H CREED

I believe in 4-H Club Work for the opportunity it will  
give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it  
will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness  
it will give me to become kind, sympathetic,  
and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity  
it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength  
it will give me to enjoy life, to resist  
disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, my community, and in  
my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to  
dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.